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LB 404

the location, kind, and number of domesticated cervine animals which are classified as livestock under LB 718. Cervine animals, for your information, are elk. Formerly under an importation ban by the Game and Parks Commission, domesticated elk are now exempt from this ban, and the importation of these animals is regulated by the State Veterinarian, as it is for all livestock. Another advantage of classifying domesticated elk as livestock is the ability of the Department of Agriculture to give assistance to the industry in product marketing and promotion, just as they provide to most ag-related industries. Several meetings have been conducted, since the passage of LB 718, between representatives of the Game and Parks Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the Elk Breeders Association, the Nebraska Cattlemen and others. All of the parties agree that, if the industry is to be successful, additional regulation is necessary to define the Department of Agriculture's role in managing fencing and holding facility requirements, importation rules and regulations, and what procedures to employ in the event domestic cervine commingle with other wild counterparts. This is necessary for the industry to protect itself from disease and genetic dilution of both the wild and domestic stock. Management by the department would also extend additional protection to traditional livestock operations, in other words, to cattle operations. A document known as "The Ten Points" was developed in the summer of '97 by the Elk Breeders Association. "The Ten Points" were developed in the legislation now considered as LB 404, which I believe has taken a form that most interested parties have come to accept. Briefly, Sections 4 through 7 include the establishment of a permitting process to operate a domesticated cervine animal facility. The department determines what information is necessary on permit applications, which are to be filed annually along with a fee. Before a person can receive an animal facility permit, the facilities must be inspected for minimum construction requirements and approved by the department. Minimum requirements of perimeter fencing and handling facilities are to be established by rules and regulations adopted by the department. Sections 8 through 10 describe procedures used by the department for the implementation of due process procedures for placing permit holders on probation, or for suspending or revoking elk animal facility permits. These sections are modeled after statutes governing other regulatory